"...and He has put love and tenderness between you" - The Holy Quran, 30:22

Lead By Example - The Responsibility of Men

An abridged version of a Friday Sermon delivered by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (aba) on May 19th, 2017

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“The miracle of moral example is such that is incomparable to others”

- The Promised Messiah[as]

Injustices

- A man has various responsibilities through various capacities – primarily that of a husband, father, and son.
- If every man understood these responsibilities, it could be a source of peace and harmony for the larger society as well.
- Nowadays, many issues and complaints regarding households are being received.
- This is due to the man's delusional arrogance that he is above all others in authority.
- Complaints are received from wives that their husbands beat them, even some to the extent that leave bruises on their body.
- Some fathers treat their sons and daughters in a way that is tantamount to cruelty.

The Model

- The life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad[sa], extending right from the household up to his relations with the wider public, was a practical example of all the commandments of the Holy Quran.
- True success can only be achieved if we put his model before us in every matter.
- Inculcating his example will lead to peace in our lives – both inside and outside the home.
- At times, some show excellent examples in other significant affairs, but ignore other “less” significant aspects of life.
- This is contrary to the example of the Holy Prophet[sa], who drew attention to the importance of all aspects of life.

The Model

- First and foremost, as the guardian of the family, the Holy Prophet[sa] established the importance of *Tauheed* (Oneness of God) in his household.
- Despite the burden of his mission and countless commitments, he made certain his family was devoted to this ideal.
- Hazrat Ayesha[ra] relates that he would wake for *nafl* (voluntary prayers), and before it was time for *Fajr*, he would wake everyone with a light sprinkling of water so they can offer *nawafil* (voluntary prayers) and *Fajr.*[1]
- This shows his efforts to inculcate the rights of Allah within his family.

[1] Bukhari, Kitabul Vitr

- Thus, every man must realize that establishing the love of Allah in their household is a primary responsibility.
- The Holy Prophet[sa] also fulfilled his duties towards the household.
- Hazrat Ayesha[ra] relates that during the entire time he spent at home, he would be occupied with helping and assisting the members of his family until he was called for the obligatory prayers.[2]
- He would stitch his own clothes, mend his own shoes, and repair household times such as the water bucket and the like.[3]
- Hadith: "Those from among the believers are complete in their faith who possess good morals, and the highest

[2] Sahih Bukhari, KitabulAzaan
[3] Umdatul Qari, Sharh Sahih Bukhari, Kitab Muawaqitus Salat

among you with regards to morals and manners is he who is better in treatment of his wives."[4]

[4] Tirmidhi, Abwabur Rida

As a Husband

- **"I find it utterly shameful** for a man to be in a state of conflict with a woman. God has made us men, and in reality, this is a completion of his favor upon us. The gratitude that we owe for this is to treat women with kindness and tenderness."
- As for me, I once raised my voice to my wife. At the time I felt that this louder-than-normal voice of mine was mixed with sentiments of grief. Even though I had said no hurtful or harsh words. I later sought forgiveness from God continuously for a very long time. I offered voluntary prayers with great humility and lowliness, and gave alms as well.

- I felt that the sternness I had shown to my wife was due to some unconscious weakness in my obedience to God Almighty."[5]
- "God had declared husband and wife to be one being. It is an injustice from the husband to give his wife an opportunity to point out his flaw."
- "Do not merely advise through words. Do not merely scold. Rather**, prove from your actions** that you are pious and that every step of yours is in accordance with the commandments of Allah the Almighty."
- Men must realize their ability to create change, such is the natural order that Allah has designed and created. This ability is nothing more than a responsibility.

[5] Malfuzat, Vol. 2 (English Translation), pg. 179

- “Man is the head of the household. Thus, if he established a bad influence, it can be expected to spread far and wide.”
- “When a husband wakes up at night, supplicates and cries, his wife will observe this for a day or two and eventually realize this [responsibility] herself, and be certainly influenced by it.”
- “If they [the husbands] want reformation [of the wives], the husbands should reform themselves, demonstrate their practical examples, and subsequently they [the wives] will be reformed.”
- “A man should utilize his faculties on the appropriate and lawful occasions…**A person who loses their**

temper has the fountain of wisdom snatched away from them."[6]

- "A wife is a witness to and observes everything her husband does, his persona and all of his traits. She is able to assess all of the husband's qualities of righteousness, such as generosity, compassion, and patience."
- After all, it is the wives who are the primary witness of man's high moral qualities and his relationship with God Almighty. **If the relationship with wives is not good, how can they be at peace with God?"[7]**

[6] Malfuzt, Vol. 5 (Urdu, 1984 Ed.), pg. 207-208
[7] Malfuzat, Vol. 5, (Urdu, 1984 Ed.), pg. 417-418

As a Father

- Fathers should also play their role in the child's training.
- In particular, when boys reach seven or eight years sold, they become needful of their father's oversight.
- If this attention is not given, this will lead to greater chances of children going astray in this Western environment.
- To instill in children a sense of security from the external environment, **it is imperative that fathers spend time outside with their children.**
- Fathers should also look after the religious and moral training of their children. True fruits are given by the grace of Allah, yet it is essential that one makes personal effort as well.

- “One who severely rebukes [children] and shows transgression in stubborn insistence on some matter, as to tell them off strictly on every little thing, is in essence saying that he alone is the master of all guidance….this is a type of hidden ***shirk*** (associating partners with Allah)”
- How did the Promised Messiah[as] guide his children?
- “**I pray for my children** and require them to follow a broad set of rules of behavior - what are our teachings, what are its rules, what are its regulations, we draw attention towards them and no more.”
- “Beyond this, I put my full trust in Allah Almighty that the seed of good fortune inherent in each of them will flower at its proper time.”[8]

[8] Malfuzat, Vol. 2 (Urdu, 1984 Ed.), pg. 5

- “I am astonished that they entertain the thought of leaving behind wealth, yet they do not think to worry about their children being virtuous and not wicked.”
- “The trial of one’s children is a great one. **If one’s children are virtuous, then what can one possibly be anxious about.”**
- “If you become righteous and upright to the highest level, and gain the pleasure of God Almighty, then be certain that God Almighty will do well by your progeny.”[9]

[9] Malfuzat, Vol. 8 (Urdu, 1984, Ed.), pg. 108-110

As a Son

- The rights due to one's relatives are similar to links [in a chain] which join together to form a peaceful society.
- Every believer should understand the importance of fulfilling the rights of one's parents and how significant this responsibility is. There are multiple Ahadith about this duty.
- An individual requested the Holy Prophet[sa] to go for Jihad. The Holy Prophet[sa] asked, "Are your parents alive?" The man replied "Yes." The Holy Prophet[sa] said: "You should serve them, **for this is your Jihad**."[10]

[10] Bukhari, Kitab ul Jihad Wasair

- “The best virtue one can perform is to show kindness to his father’s friends after his father departs from this world.”[11]
- A man once inquired of the Holy Prophet[sa], “O Messenger of Allah! Is there any virtue that I can perform after my parents have passed away?”
- “The Holy Prophet[sa] stated, “Indeed! You should pray for them and ask for their forgiveness. You should fulfil those promises they made with others. You should keep good relations with their kith and kin in a manner that they would have done had they been alive. You should show respected to all of their friends.[12]
- “Whosoever wished to live a long life, and for their provisions to be blessed, should show kindness and

[11] Sunan Abi Dawud Kita ul Adab
[12] Sunan Abi Dawud Kitab ul Adab

compassion to their parents and also show respect to their kinsfolk."[13]

- Thus, children should not only make demands from their parents, but instead begin to fulfill the rights of their parents when they reach adolescence.
- **Especially after marriage**, one should be more mindful of these responsibilities.
- If with wisdom, a man explains to his wife the importance of respecting his parents, while fulfilling the wife's rights and her parent's rights, **the no dispute will arise in homes – which is the case sometimes.**
- Due to differences in religion, a rift can develop between fathers and sons. This is often asked by new converts.

[13] Al-Jami Li Shu'ab al-Iman

- A companion of the Promised Messiah[as], Sheikh Abdur Rahman Sahib asked about how to deal with his parents, as they were non-Muslim.
- "You should try your utmost to the best of your abilities to serve your parents."
- "One should obey their parents in all worldly matters that do not oppose religious injunctions. Serve them with all your heart and soul."
- **"By presenting your morals and purity a thousand times better than before**, you should be able to convince them of the truthfulness of Islam."[14]

[14] Malfuzat, Vol. 4 (Urdu, 1984 Ed.), pg. 175

“Exemplify your homes to where an atmosphere of love and affection always remains constant.” (Friday Sermon, May 19th, 2017)